2

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A telecommunications network comprising:

a customer premise equipment coupled to a terminating network node;

an originating network node connected to the terminating network node via at least one other network node; and

said at least one other network node equipped with a processor for transmitting a message to the customer premise equipment via the terminating network node, the message indicating to a user of the customer premise equipment that a transmission was received over a non-private link subject to unauthorized interception.

3. (Twice amended) The telecommunications network of claim 1 wherein the originating network node alerts a calling party using a customer premise equipment coupled to the originating network node of presence of said non-private link.

4. (Twice amended) A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

establishing a route from an originating network node to a terminating network node;

determining whether at least a portion of the route includes an insecure link; and

responsive to the step of determining whether at least a portion the route includes an insecure link and prior to connection to said terminating network node, providing an alert of a security status of the

3

route to a calling party using the originating network node.

6. (Twice amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes issuing a distinctive ring at a station associated with the terminating network node.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes issuing a message on an identification display associated with one of a station associated with the terminating network node and the calling party.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes providing an audible voice message.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes using an audible tone.

12. (Amended) The method of claims 10 or 11 wherein providing the alert includes providing a periodic alert.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
    issuing the alert when a previously secure route becomes insecure.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes a query screen on a personal computer.

25. (Amended) A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
    a. establishing a route from a calling party to a called party;

4

b. determining whether at least a portion of the route includes a non-private link subject to unauthorized interception;

c. responsive to a positive result in said determining step, further determining whether a secure connection may be established between said calling party and said called party; and

d. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, providing an alert of the insecure nature of the route to said calling party.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said calling party to said called party, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

transmitting a message including a security status request through each of said at least one intermediate node.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said calling party to said called party, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

for each of said at least one intermediate node, if such node is insecure, receiving a message indicating such node is insecure.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. establishing a secure connection between said calling party and said called party.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

5

e. establishing a connection between said calling party and said called party despite a determination that a secure connection cannot be established.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to said calling party, and the method further comprises the steps of:

e. receiving authorization from said calling party, after said calling party has received said alert, to maintain a connection between said calling party and said called party.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to said calling party, and further comprises the steps of:

e. receiving authorization from said calling party, after said calling party has received said alert, to establish a connection between said calling party and said called party.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, establishing a new route between said calling party and said called party.

Please cancel claim 2.